

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13430 110703Z
ACTION EA-06

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R 110525Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4346
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13430

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PBOR, VM, CB, TH, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV FONMIN COMMENTS ON VISITS TO SRV AND CAMBODIA

REF: BANGKOK 12729

1. YUGOSLAV CHARGE IN BANGKOK INFORMED RELIABLE WESTERN RE-

PORTERS HERE, WHO CONVEYED REPORT TO US MAY 9, THAT YUGOSLAV FONMIN MINIC RECEIVED STRONG IMPRESSION DURING MAY 2-4 VISIT TO PHNOM PENH THAT VISIT BY DEPUTY FONMIN IENG SARY TO BANGKOK HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. MINIC HAD IMPRESSION THAT CAMBODIANS ARE NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED THE RTG IS TRUSTWORTHY, CASTING SERIOUS DOUBT ON WHETHER A SATISFACTORY BORDER SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED NOW BETWEEN THAILAND AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 13430 110703Z

CAMBODIA. YUGOSLAV CHARGE BELIEVES CAMBODIANS IMPLIED THAT RTG WAS STILL LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR BORDERDIFFICULTIES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, CAMBODIANS DID NOT INDICATE WHAT THAIS WOULD HAVE TO DO TO CHANGE THIS VIEW.

2. MINIC REPORTEDLY URGED BOTH PHNOM PENH AND HANOI TO END THE WASTEFUL VIOLENCE ON THEIR BORDERS AND REACH A

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR REPORT, MINIC AT LEAST STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT BELGRADE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEDIATE. HE REPORTED GENERAL RECEPTIVITY IN HANOI TO HIS PROPOSAL, BUT CAMBODIANS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO HAVE EVEN FRIENDS PLAY A MEDIATING ROLE.

3. MINIC APPARENTLY RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT PHNOM PENH IS NOW READY TO EXPAND ITS PRIMARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO INCLUDE MATH AS WELL AS READING, WRITING, AND REVOLUTIONARY SONGS. CAMBODIANS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT TECHNICAL TRAINING WOULD BE INCREASED AND THAT PHNOM PENH MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND SOME YOUNG CAMBODIANS ABROAD TO STUDY MEDICINE.

4. COMMENT: IF THIS REPORT OF MINIC'S IMPRESSIONS IS CORRECT, THE PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIAN RELATIONS WITH ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS APPEAR QUITE POOR. HAVING PINNED CONSIDERABLE HOPE ON AN EARLY VISIT BY IEENG SARY, PM KRIANGSAK WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED AND EM-BARRASSED.

5. RUDIMENTARY EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS BEING CONDUCTED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CAMBODIA, BUT CAMBODIANS MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED THEIR INTENTIONS ON EDUCATION, AS IN THE PAST, OR THEY INDEED MAY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 13430 110703Z

BE READY TO PURSUE MORE REALISTIC POLICIES. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INDICATIONS THAT PHNOM PENH MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING A FEW STUDENTS ABROAD FOR STUDY. SINCE POL POT AND HIS LIEUTENANTS STUDIED IN FRANCE, PRESUMABLY A FEW WELL CHOSEN OFFSPRING OF OLD GUERRILLAS WOULD RECEIVE SOME TRAINING ABROAD WITHOUT SPOILING THE NEW CAMBODIA.

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